

Will the broadcast flag interfere with consumers ability to make copies of DTV content for their personal use, either on personal video recorders or removable media?

Yes, it will, particularly as compared to current and proper Fair Use guidelines. The implementation of broadcast flags will only cause the technically savvy consumer to delay or complete defer their adoption of DTV. I, for one, would not purchase consumer electronics geared toward the use of broadcast flags.

Would the digital flag interfere with consumers ability to send DTV content across networks, such as home digital networks connecting digital set top boxes, digital recorders, digital servers and digital display devices?

Yes, it would. Undoubtedly, the implementation of broadcast flags would lead to a mish-mash of half- or improperly-implemented standards among consumer electronics companies. This, in turn, would render a consumer's current investment in technology outdated, at best, or useless at worst.

Would the broadcast flag requirement limit consumers ability to use their existing electronic equipment (equipment not built to look for the flag) or make it difficult to use older components with new equipment that is compliant with the broadcast flag standard?

Yes. See previous answer.

Would a broadcast flag requirement limit the development of future equipment providing consumers with new options?

Absolutely, yes. The more government-mandated requirements are imposed, the less capital is available for true innovation as opposed to crippling compliance.

What will be the cost impact, if any, that a broadcast flag requirement would have on consumer electronics equipment?

I suspect significant, particularly in the first few years. This cost will, of course, would be passed on to the consumer, particularly the early adopter.

Other Comments:

I encourage you to allow free markets and true innovation to win the day. The broadcast flag, as proposed, in addition to other attempts by the entertainment industry to stifle progress only reverse fair use rights and reduce choice for consumers.